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12-16-1858

### Letter to G. W. Dubois

Charles Pettit McIlvaine

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to Seneca Falls Geo Washington Du Bois D.D.

Winchester Dec. 11, 1858

My dear Washington

I have rec<sup>d</sup> from W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>r</sup> L<sup>l</sup>  
receiving the announcement you sent  
her of the birth of your little Sarah - & of  
the well-doing of my precious Mary.  
I thank our Heavenly Father for his good-  
ness - I had feared - on account of Ma-  
rie's previous illness & weakness - I hope  
my next letter will speak as favorably  
of her continuance - My best love - out  
of my whole heart, to my precious child  
& to all her & yours - with yourself -  
Aunt & I came yesterday to South-  
ampton to see poor Maggie off in  
the Linton, who is called home by  
the threatening illness of her younger  
brother, Charles - We parted with her



with great regret, for his company  
has been a great pleasure - Poor girl,  
she goes to meet affliction - We are  
now at Mr Carnie's - On Saturday  
we go to spend about four days at  
Farnham Castle - <sup>Mr</sup> ordination is  
on Sunday, in the Chapel of the Castle -  
& as I preached for him on that  
occasion when your Mother was with  
me, in '59 - so now he has engaged  
me to do so again - As the Chapel  
is small & the congregation will be  
composed only of the 30 candidates, the  
household - & a few visitors & clergy - so  
will not try me - I told him I would  
preach, if he would let me preach  
an unwritten sermon - He said he liked  
up all hands for it - I refuse <sup>affliction</sup>  
times to preach except in a little quiet  
way now & then, that I may not use  
what I have gained, with any risk of

loss - while from home - thus I have  
declined Dean French's urgent request  
to preach one of the people's sermons, at  
night in Westminster Abbey - & the Bp  
of London's to preach at the Working Men's  
in Fitchfield - where he preaches some  
times - though my heart went strong  
for the latter & I was much tempted  
to consent - We have concluded not  
to sail till Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> - in consequence of  
strong advice not to go & put myself  
too soon amidst my work - before my  
soured health has become more  
fixed - I am wonderfully better -  
feel very well - & probably will be  
able to stand well the renewal of  
my full work, with caution & moderation  
My head is a great deal stronger than  
it was when in Italy - I preached  
twice in Cambridge - Sunday Morning,  
& Monday night - unexpectedly for I had  
no idea of doing it when I went - I had  
no sermons - I was a little frightened to



the idea of extemporize would before such  
folks - but that all passed away before  
prayer - & the Lord's help - & I was enabled  
boldly & plainly - & I trust humbly, to testify  
to the simple Gospel of Christ. My head  
stood it well - but I shall <sup>not</sup> do so much  
again - before I leave Engl<sup>d</sup> - I am &  
Meggie had a great time at Cambridge.  
Several American ladies had with a time  
there - now taking a walk at the Master's  
of Trinity - then with the Master of Cairns  
then with the Regius Prof. of Divinity,  
in Trinity College - then at the lodge of  
the Provost of King's - taken into Mr. May's  
to hear the Select Preacher by Lady Affleck  
wife of the Master of Trinity (Dr. Whewell)  
& to the service in this Chapel & that  
of the Colleges - by great folks - dear me!  
what a time they had - Then they spent  
two days at the Archbishop's - at Addington  
Park, his country seat, &c. - <sup>then</sup> ~~then~~ <sup>stain</sup> in the lane  
something to tell when she gets back - Now  
good by all - Keep to dear Mary & the children  
Yours most affectionately  
C. P. M.